



News Release

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FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA ANNOUNCES DAVID KEARS APPOINTED TO STATE COMMISSION

***Health Care Services Agency for Alameda County director to join efforts for state's
children and families***

SACRAMENTO – First 5 California today announced Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's appointment of David Kears to the First 5 California Children and Families State Commission, which is charged with distributing approximately \$550 million in tobacco taxes annually to fund programs that serve the needs of children ages 0 to 5 and their families.

"Mr. Kears comes to us with an impressive background and dedication to health and children's issues," said Hector Ramirez, Chair of First 5 California. "The children of California are fortunate to have such an experienced and highly-qualified individual on our Commission."

At his new post, Kears will fill the county health executive position required under the Commission's bylaws, and will work to forward First 5's goal that all young children enter school healthy and ready to reach their greatest potential.

"First 5 California has made tremendous strides in delivering critical health services to the children of California," said Kears. "I am honored to receive this appointment and look forward to bringing my expertise to the Commission."

Kears is currently serving as the director of the Health Care Services Agency for Alameda County, which provides medical care, behavioral care, public health, agency administration and finance, and the alliance for health in order to accommodate the demands of a primary care focused healthcare delivery. Over the past 10 years, Kears has served as chair of the Interagency Children's Policy Council for Alameda County. He also chairs Safe Passages, a partnership between Alameda County, the City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District. In addition, he was chief executive officer of the Alameda Alliance for Health from 1994 to 1997.

First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, childcare and other programs for expectant parents and children up to age 5. For more information, please visit www.cffc.ca.gov.

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